GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2660
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
REPORT OF NATURAL CALAMITIES
Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of Oxfam International incidences of natural calamities are likely to increase due to flawed policy for prevention of natural calamities;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) whether sixty per cent of Indian territory is declared as earthquake prone areas in the said report;

(d) if so,the details thereof;and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the impact of such natural calamities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI)

(a) & (b): The South Asia Regional Central of the Oxfam (India) Trust,New Delhi which is an international organization under Oxfam International has brought out a report titled "Rethinking Disaster".In the context of South Asia,according to this report,the extent of damage wreaked by events is not solely down to nature but are mainly due to inappropriate policies and actions taken for reducing the risks of disasters.The said report does not take cognizance of many new initiatives on disaster management in region and India in particular.

(c) & (d): Nearly 58.6% of landmass in India is prone to earthquake of various magnitude,of which 10.9% is in Seismic Zone-IV (high risk) and 30.4% in Seismic Zone-III (moderate risk).

(e): The Government have taken a series of steps for reducing the impact of natural disasters. These include enactment of Disaster Management Act,constitution of Disaster Management Authority at national,state and district levels,setting up of dedicated funds for disaster management, development of comprehensive policies and framework for holistic management of disasters including implementation of various programmers for prevention and mitigation of disasters and streamlining the system of disaster preparedness and response including early warning and forecast,training and capacity building and pre-disaster planning, community based disaster risk management etc.